



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

Office of Louisiana State Fire Marshal

Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Date: April 4, 2022

To: Louisiana Nursing Home Association
Louisiana Department of Health

From: H. "Butch" Browning, Louisiana State Fire Marshal

Re: **HEALTHCARE FACILITIES EVACUATED DURING A HURRICANE OR STATE DECLARED EMERGENCY**

The Office of State Fire Marshal (office) shall perform re-entry inspections prior to any healthcare facilities occupying any portion of their structures that were evacuated during a hurricane. A representative from the healthcare facility must email all requests to HSSEP@la.gov, Emergency Preparedness Program (EPP) Manager at LDH for approval. LDH will forward the request to this office and a re-entry inspection will be scheduled. Major building and operational features of concern will be assessed by visual inspection and will include, but will not be limited to, the following:

- Electrical power generated from the electrical power company restored
- Emergency power systems (generators) with fuel (if required for compliance under normal conditions)
- Fire protection systems (fire alarm, sprinkler, cooking suppression, etc.)
- Mechanical and Electrical items (HVAC-if out more than 48 hours, boilers, door operators, lighting, etc.)
- Egress systems (room arrangement, doors, corridors exits, ramps, stairs, etc.)
- Medical Gas storage and systems (oxygen, vacuum, compressed air, nitrous oxide, etc.)
- Fire Safety Plan (revised/modified evacuation and relocation plan, staff responsibilities, etc.)

Evacuated facilities which are placed into operation without the aforementioned assessment by this office shall be considered a hazard to public safety.

REPAIR REQUESTS

Due to unusual conditions presented during this time of crisis, minor repairs and superficial alternations may be completed at the owner's risk, provided an approval is granted by this office and submitted via a written request. The request shall be signed by the administrator of the facility and shall include the name and address of the facility, a description of field conditions and the proposed scope of work to be performed.

*NOTE: The "scope of work" shall **NOT** include the installation of new walls, the relocation of existing walls, the reconfiguration of interior spaces, or any other construction, such as repairs to fire barriers, smoke barriers, fire protection systems/devices, fire rated assemblies, etc., that could adversely affect life safety, unless minimum code compliance is adequately explained and determined to be acceptable by this office.*

OPERATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION

Changes in floor plan arrangements are to be reviewed and inspected with minimum standards. In order to expedite the process, an "Operational Plan of Action" describing the field conditions and the proposed scope of work shall be submitted to this office for expedited cursory review and subsequent inspection. Full compliance with the provisions of the Life Safety Code shall be required and will be expected by this office. The "Operational Plan of Action" shall include a request for "FACILITY ASSESSMENT" as described above and shall also include a complete history of all previous special requests and/or assessments associated with the damage done by the hurricane/storm. A full formal review will be required at a later date as determined by inspection.

Caution: This document shall in no way relieve the facility from compliance with minimum standards, and is not intended to circumvent state law or any regulations enforced by other authorities having jurisdiction.